

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2176
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
SHORTAGE OF SIM CARDS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a long waiting list of SIM Cards/Pre-paid Sim Cards in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to make available the same in the States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) There is a waiting list for pre-paid mobile connections of about 6.5 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh. However no waiting list is being maintained in Madhya Pradesh. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)'s mobile service is well received by the public due to wider coverage and good quality of service. Due to capacity constraints, the release of pre-paid cellular connections has been controlled temporarily. However, post-paid cellular connections are available on demand in both the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has placed purchase order for equipment required for expansion of cellular network in Uttar Pradesh. Sufficient numbers of SIM Cards for pre-paid connections are likely to be issued soon after availability of additional capacity during 2005. However, in respect of Madhya Pradesh, connections are under release with commissioning of additional capacity of around 1.5 lakh lines recently.